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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/530,995

05/18/2005

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EXAMINER

CAMPOS, JR, JUAN J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

4136

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

02/05/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/530,995	Applicant(s) TANJI, HIROYUKI	
	Examiner Juan J. Campos	Art Unit 4136	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1- 15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 November 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4/12/05 & 8/4/05</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: Claim numbers are used in the specifications.

Appropriate correction is required.

3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: "the" is incorrectly spelled (page 17, paragraph 2).

Appropriate correction is required.

4. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: Figure 19 is not mentioned (page 29, paragraph 3).

Appropriate correction is required.

5. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: grip is incorrectly given number "264" instead of correct 624.

Appropriate correction is required.

6. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: the item "..."
appears twice in the specification (page 37, paragraph 2).

Appropriate correction is required.

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7. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: components 681 and 682 are not mention in figure 25, but incorrectly mentioned in figure 26 (page 37).

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

8. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

9. **Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.** The term "general" in claim 6 is a relative term which renders the claim indefinite. The term "general" is not defined by the claim, the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention. See the use of "general" in claim 6.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

10. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

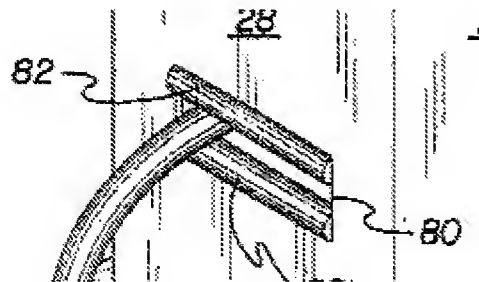
A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

11. **Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bantaculo (US Patent 5,560,391).** Bantaculo discloses a hose handling apparatus comprising a box having an

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upper horizontal plate in a rectangular configuration (see abstract). The apparatus disclosed by Bantaculo contains a pair of guide rollers (82) on a rectangular aperture (80), see figure 1, on the front wall of a hose handling apparatus (see column 5, lines 4-5). Bantaculo also discloses that the rollers are for guiding the movement of the hose between spindle and exterior thereof (column 5, lines 9-10). Bantaculo discloses a hose handling apparatus with a rectangular aperture having rollers (82) on the top and bottom portions of the aperture (see figure 1). Clearly, the two rollers are considered the guide part(s) of this apparatus. In addition, the upper roller of this apparatus is considered a restrictive part since it restricts the hose from moving higher than the upper opening edge of the space between the two rollers. Since the upper edge of the lower roller is considered the lower opening edge (figures 1 and 3), the lower opening is linear (from front view of figure 1, or picture below).



Part of Figure 1 for Claim 4 rejection (Bantaculo)

12. **Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nelson (US Patent 4,813,627).** Nelson discloses automatic rewindable garden hose reel (see abstract). The automatic rewindable garden hose reel disclosed by Nelson contains a drum (22) that is supported by a wall mount (20), see column 1, lines 60-68. Also, the garden hose reel of Nelson

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contains a slot (103), formed by the fairlead rail (102) and the support bar (98) for guiding the hose (guide part) because the outer diameter of the hose stop (108, see figure 2) is wider than the narrowest width of the slot (103), see column 3, lines 7-15. From the specifications in Nelson, see figure 1, the drum (22) is supported by the wall mount (20, i.e. frame) and the slot (i.e. guide part) comprises a bar disposed on the wall mount (frame).

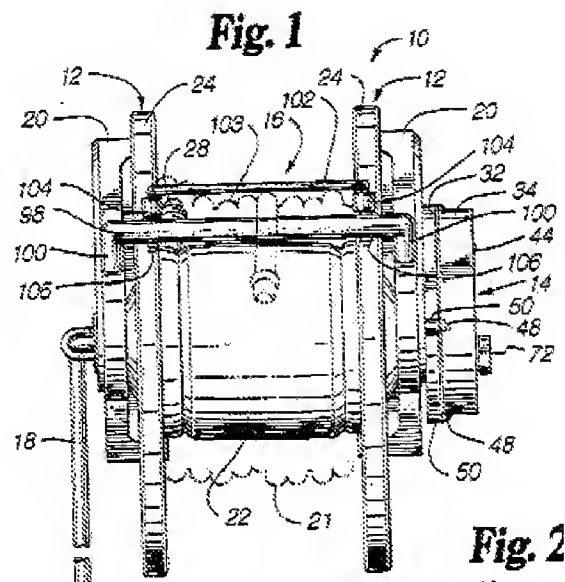


Figure 1 of Nelson for Claim 5 rejection.

13. **Claims 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Whitehead et al. (US Patent 6,050,291).** Whitehead et al. discloses an enclosed hose reel (see abstract). The hose reel disclosed by Whitehead et al. contains a spool (12) onto which the hose (H) is wound or taken up, see column 3, lines 56-57. From figure 3, the spool will move in the direction urging the movement of the hose and is disposed on the moving path of the hose to be wound up by spool. Also, Whitehead et al. discloses that the spool consists of two flanges (18, or collars), see column 3 (lines 59-60). And the spool is supported by the frame (or enclosure),

see figure 6. From reviewing figure 6, clearly the frame (enclosure) is formed in a shape allowing accommodation of the spool (drum) and the cutout portion (54, inlet/outlet) is disposed in a position in the enclosure (frame) opposite the winding position of the two flanges (collars) of spool (drum). In addition, the width of the cutout portion is not greater than the distance from one flange to the other. Also, from figure 6, the enclosure (frame) is formed in a case shape for accommodating the spool (drum).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

14. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

15. **Claims 1-2 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Whitehead et al. (US Patent 6,050,291) in view of Smith (US Patent 6,467,499 B1).**

Whitehead et al. discloses an enclosed hose reel (see abstract). The hose reel disclosed by Whitehead et al. contains a spool (12, or drum) onto which the hose (H) is wound or taken up, see column 3, lines 56-57. Smith discloses a reel and hose covering device for receiving a reel and hose interiorly (see abstract). Also, Smith discloses a front wall (22) with an opening (32) to allow the passage of the water outlet (18) of the hose (16), see column 4 lines 6-8.

16. **Regarding claim 1,** Whitehead et al. discloses an enclosed hose reel (see abstract) for winding a spool (see figure 6), but does not disclose a guide part for guiding the hose (H). Smith

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discloses a reel and hose covering device (see abstract) that contains an opening to allow the passage of the water outlet (18) of the hose (16), see column 4 lines 6-8. Also, as disclosed by Smith, the width of the opening (32) is set to decrease to its upper portion, see opening on figure 3. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in this art to utilize the hose reel of Whitehead et al. and apply the opening of Smith to have a guide part (the opening of Smith) for guiding the hose on the moving path of the hose and to have a guide part with a width that decreases toward the upper portion of guide part.

17. **Regarding claim 2,** Whitehead et al. discloses an enclosed hose reel (see abstract) for winding a spool (see figure 6), but does not disclose a guide part for guiding the hose (H) . Smith discloses a reel and hose covering device (see abstract) that contains an opening to allow the passage of the water outlet (18) of the hose (16), see column 4 lines 6-8. Also, as disclosed by Smith, the width of the opening (32) is set to decrease to its upper portion, see opening on figure 3. As observed by the opening (32) of Smith (see figure 3), the left and right sides of the opening (inclined parts) have an angle of inclination of more than 45 degrees and less than 90 degrees. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in this art to utilize the hose reel of Whitehead et al. and apply the opening of Smith to have a guide part (the opening of Smith) for guiding the hose on the moving path of the hose and to have the left and right sides of opening (inclined parts) with an angle of inclination of more than 45 degrees and less than 90 degrees.

18. **Regarding claim 12,** Whitehead et al. discloses an enclosed hose reel (see abstract) for winding a spool (see figure 6), but does not disclose a guide part for guiding the hose (H) . Smith discloses a reel and hose covering device (see abstract) that contains an opening to allow

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the passage of the water outlet (18) of the hose (16), see column 4 lines 6-8. Also, as disclosed by Smith, the width of the opening (32) is set to decrease to its upper portion, see opening on figure 3. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in this art to utilize the hose reel of Whitehead et al. and apply the opening of Smith to have an inlet/outlet set to become smaller toward the upper part.

19. **Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Whitehead et al. (US Patent 6,050,291) as applied to claim above and further in view of Bantaculo (US Patent 5,560,391).** Whitehead et al. discloses an enclosed hose reel (see abstract). The hose reel disclosed by Whitehead et al. contains a spool (12, or drum) onto which the hose (H) is wound or taken up, see column 3, lines 56-57. Bantaculo discloses a hose handling apparatus comprising a box having an upper horizontal plate in a rectangular configuration (see abstract). The apparatus disclosed by Bantaculo contains a pair of guide rollers (82) on a rectangular aperture (80), see figure 1, on the front wall of a hose handling apparatus (see column 5, lines 4-5). Bantaculo also discloses that the rollers are for guiding the movement of the hose between spindle and exterior thereof (column 5, lines 9-10). Bantaculo discloses a hose handling apparatus with a rectangular aperture having rollers (82) on the top and bottom portions of the aperture (see figure 1). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in this art to utilize the enclosed hose reel of Whitehead et al., have lower roller (from Bantaculo) as a rotational member in contact with the hose and rotating in the direction of urging the movement of the hose. Also, the lower roller of Bantaculo can be put in place of the moving path of the hose to be wound up by spool (drum) of Whitehead et al.

20. **Claims 3, 6-7 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Whitehead et al. (US Patent 6,050,291) in view of Smith (US Patent 6,467,499 B1) and Fritsch (US Patent 3,776,262).** Whitehead et al. discloses an enclosed hose reel (see abstract). The hose reel disclosed by Whitehead et al. contains a spool (12, or drum) onto which the hose (H) is wound or taken up, see column 3, lines 56-57. Smith discloses reel and hose covering device for receiving a reel and hose interiorly (see abstract). Also, Smith discloses a front wall (22) with an opening (32) to allow the passage of the water outlet (18) of the hose (16), see column 4 lines 6-8, and figure 3. Fritsch discloses for a cylindrical garden hose enclosure. In addition, Fritsch discloses that the cover (24) has a bead (29) around the rim of the dispensing opening (26), see column 2 lines 16-17.

21. **Regarding claim 3,** Whitehead et al. discloses an enclosed hose reel (see abstract) for winding a spool (see figure 6), but does not disclose a guide part for guiding the hose (H) . Smith discloses a reel and hose covering device (see abstract) that contains an opening to allow the passage of the water outlet (18) of the hose (16), see column 4 lines 6-8. Also, as disclosed by Smith, the width of the opening (32) is set to decrease to its upper portion, see opening on figure 3. Smith does not disclose a restrictive part formed of an arc shape whose central part protrudes. Fritsch discloses that the cover (24) has a bead (29) around the rim of the dispensing opening (26), but does not disclose using the bead on an opening of a hose reel. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in this art to utilize the hose reel of Whitehead et al. and apply the opening of Smith to have a guide part (the opening of Smith) for guiding the hose on the moving path of the hose to be wound around a drum. Also, a

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person of ordinary skill in this art, can utilize the bead of Fritsch with Smith to create a restrictive part of arc shape whose central part protrudes.

22. **Regarding claim 6**, Whitehead et al. discloses an enclosed hose reel (see abstract) for winding a spool (see figure 6), but does not disclose a guide part for guiding the hose (H) . Smith discloses a reel and hose covering device (see abstract) that contains an opening to allow the passage of the water outlet (18) of the hose (16), see column 4 lines 6-8. Smith does not disclose a restrictive part formed of an arc shape whose central part protrudes. Fritsch discloses that the cover (24) has a bead (29) around the rim of the dispensing opening (26), but does not disclose using the bead on an opening of a hose reel. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in this art to utilize the hose reel of Whitehead et al. and apply the opening of Smith to have a guide part (the opening of Smith) for guiding the hose on the moving path of the hose to be wound around a drum. Also, a person of ordinary skill in this art, can utilize the bead of Fritsch with Smith to create a thick part thicker than a general part disposed on the opening edge of opening (Smith).

23. **Regarding claim 7**, Whitehead et al. discloses an enclosed hose reel (see abstract) for winding a spool (see figure 6), but does not disclose a guide part for guiding the hose (H) . Smith discloses a reel and hose covering device (see abstract) that contains an opening to allow the passage of the water outlet (18) of the hose (16), see column 4 lines 6-8. Smith does not disclose a restrictive part formed of an arc shape whose central part protrudes. Fritsch discloses that the cover (24) has a bead (29) around the rim of the dispensing opening (26), but does not disclose using the bead on an opening of a hose reel. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in this art to utilize the hose reel of Whitehead et al.

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and apply the opening of Smith to have a guide part (the opening of Smith), with an opening with a sectional shape of an arc, for guiding the hose on the moving path of the hose to be wound around a drum. Also, a person of ordinary skill in this art, can utilize the bead of Fritsch to have the arc protruding toward the centering of opening.

24. **Regarding claim 15**, Whitehead et al. discloses a enclosed hose reel (see abstract) for winding a spool (see figure 6), but does not disclose the distance between the two flanges (18) as set between 40% and 60% of the diameter of flanges. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in this art to design the enclosed hose reel to have a distance between the two flanges set between 40% and 60% of the diameter of flanges.

25. **Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Whitehead et al. (US Patent 6,050,291) in view of Smith (US Patent 6,467,499 B1) and Fritsch (US Patent 3,776,262).** Whitehead et al. discloses an enclosed hose reel (see abstract). The hose reel disclosed by Whitehead et al. contains a spool (12, or drum) onto which the hose (H) is wound or taken up, see column 3, lines 56-57. Smith discloses reel and hose covering device for receiving a reel and hose interiorly (see abstract). Also, Smith discloses a front wall (22) with an opening (32) to allow the passage of the water outlet (18) of the hose (16), see column 4 lines 6-8. As can be seen by figure 3 in Smith, the opening is of arc shape. Fritsch discloses for a cylindrical garden hose enclosure. In addition, Fritsch discloses that the cover (24) has a bead (29) around the rim of the dispensing opening (26), see column 2 lines 16-17. Neither Whitehead et al, Smith or Fritsch disclose an opening edge of the inlet/outlet on the upper side is formed in an arc shape whose central part protrudes upward. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in this art to use the apparatus of Whitehead et al., the opening of

Smith and the bead of Fritsch to design the opening edge of the inlet/outlet on the upper side so it is formed in an arc shape whose central part protrudes upward.

26. **Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Whitehead et al. (US Patent 6,050,291) in view of Smith (US Patent 6,467,499 B1).** Whitehead et al. discloses an enclosed hose reel (see abstract). The hose reel disclosed by Whitehead et al. contains a spool (12, or drum) with flanges (onto which the hose (H) is wound or taken up, see column 3, lines 56-60. Smith discloses a reel and hose covering device for receiving a reel and hose interiorly (see abstract). Also, Smith discloses a front wall (22) with an opening (32) to allow the passage of the water outlet (18) of the hose (16), see column 4 lines 6-8. As can be seen by figure 3 in Smith, the opening is of arc shape. Neither Whitehead et al. nor Smith disclose placing the starting point of the arc shape of opening between the center of rotation of drum and the highest position of collars. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in this art to use the apparatus of Whitehead et al., and the opening of Smith to design the starting point of the arc shape to be placed at a point between the center of rotation of drum (spool) and highest position of collars (flanges).

27. **Claims 9/1 and 9/2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Whitehead et al. (US Patent 6,050,291) and Smith (US Patent 6,467,499 B1), as applied to claims 1-2 above and further in view of Hamrick (US Patent 3,520,725).** Whitehead et al. discloses an enclosed hose reel (see abstract). The hose reel disclosed by Whitehead et al. contains a spool (12, or drum) onto which the hose (H) is wound or taken up, see column 3, lines 56-57. Smith discloses reel and hose covering device for receiving a reel and hose interiorly (see abstract). Also, Smith discloses a front wall (22) with an opening (32) to allow the passage of

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the water outlet (18) of the hose (16), see column 4 lines 6-8. Along with these prior art references, Hamrick discloses a retractable hose-type vacuum cleaning system with a rugged hose (see figure 2). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in this art to utilize the apparatuses of Whitehead et al., Smith and Fritsch to obtain the hose reel of the present application and to use the rugged hose of Hamrick in all claims that incorporate a rugged hose.

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28. **Claims 9/3, 9/6 and 9/7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Whitehead et al. (US Patent 6,050,291) and Smith (US Patent 6,467,499 B1), and Fritsch (US Patent 3,776,262) as applied to claims 3, 6, and 7 above and further in view of Hamrick (US Patent 3,520,725).** Whitehead et al. discloses an enclosed hose reel (see abstract). The hose reel disclosed by Whitehead et al. contains a spool (12, or drum) onto which the hose (H) is wound or taken up, see column 3, lines 56-57. Smith discloses reel and hose covering device for receiving a reel and hose interiorly (see abstract). Also, Smith discloses a front wall (22) with an opening (32) to allow the passage of the water outlet (18) of the hose (16), see column 4 lines 6-8. Fritsch discloses for a cylindrical garden hose enclosure. In addition, Fritsch discloses that the cover (24) has a bead (29) around the rim of the dispensing opening (26), see column 2 lines 16-17 and figure 1. Along with these prior art references, Hamrick discloses a retractable hose-type vacuum cleaning system with a rugged hose (see figure 2). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in this art to utilize the apparatuses of Whitehead et al., Smith and Fritsch to obtain the hose reel of the present application and to use the rugged hose of Hamrick in all claims that incorporate a rugged hose.

29. **Claim 9/4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bantaculo (US Patent 5,560,391) as applied to claim 4 above in view of Hamrick (US Patent 3,520,725).** Bantaculo discloses a hose handling apparatus comprising a box having an upper horizontal plate in a rectangular configuration (see abstract). The apparatus disclosed by Bantaculo contains a pair of guide rollers (82) on a rectangular aperture (80), see figure 1, on the front wall of a hose handling apparatus (see column 5, lines 4-5). Bantaculo also discloses that

the rollers are for guiding the movement of the hose between spindle and exterior thereof (column 5, lines 9-10). Bantaculo discloses a hose handling apparatus with a rectangular aperture having rollers (82) on the top and bottom portions of the aperture (see figure 1).

Hamrick discloses a retractable hose-type vacuum cleaning system with a rugged hose (see figure 2). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in this art to use the apparatus of Bantaculo and rugged hose of Hamrick to obtain the apparatus disclosed in this application and to use the rugged hose of Hamrick in all claims that incorporate a rugged hose..

30. Claim 9/5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nelson (US Patent 4,813,627) as applied to claim 5 above in view of Hamrick (US Patent 3,520,725).

Nelson discloses automatic rewindable garden hose reel (see abstract). The automatic rewindable garden hose reel disclosed by Nelson contains a drum (22) that is supported by a wall mount (20), see column 1, lines 60-68. Also, the garden hose reel of Nelson contains a slot (103), formed by the fairlead rail (102) and the support bar (98) for guiding the hose (guide part) because the outer diameter of the hose stop (108, see figure 2) is wider than the narrowest width of the slot (103), see column 3, lines 7-15. From the specifications in Nelson, see figure 1, the drum (22) is supported by the wall mount (20, i.e. frame) and the slot (i.e. guide part) comprises a bar disposed on the wall mount (frame). Hamrick discloses a retractable hose-type vacuum cleaning system with a rugged hose (see figure 2). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in this art to use the apparatus of Nelson and rugged hose of Hamrick to obtain the apparatus disclosed in this application and to use the rugged hose of Hamrick in all claims that incorporate a rugged hose.

31. **Claim 9/8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Whitehead et al. (US Patent 6,050,291) and Bantaculo (US Patent 5,560,391) as applied to claim 8 above and further in view of Hamrick (US Patent 3,520,725).** Whitehead et al. discloses an enclosed hose reel (see abstract). The hose reel disclosed by Whitehead et al. contains a spool (12, or drum) onto which the hose (H) is wound or taken up, see column 3, lines 56-57.

Bantaculo discloses a hose handling apparatus comprising a box having an upper horizontal plate in a rectangular configuration (see abstract). The apparatus disclosed by Bantaculo contains a pair of guide rollers (82) on a rectangular aperture (80), see figure 1, on the front wall of a hose handling apparatus (see column 5, lines 4-5). Bantaculo also discloses that the rollers are for guiding the movement of the hose between spindle and exterior thereof (column 5, lines 9-10). Bantaculo discloses a hose handling apparatus with a rectangular aperture having rollers (82) on the top and bottom portions of the aperture (see figure 1). Hamrick discloses a retractable hose-type vacuum cleaning system with a rugged hose (see figure 2). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in this art to obtain the apparatus disclosed in this application and to use the rugged hose of Hamrick in all claims that incorporate a rugged hose.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Juan J. Campos whose telephone number is (571) 270-5229. The examiner can normally be reached on 9am-4pm (Monday-Friday).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, J. Allen Shriver can be reached on (571) 272-6698. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JJC

/J. Allen Shriver/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 4136